

PRESS RELEASE
MAY 10, 2005

Chief Justice Myron T. Steele of the Supreme Court of Delaware announces that the Supreme Court and the Delaware Law Related Education Center were awarded the bid to host the 2008 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Wilmington, May 7 – 11, 2008. The competitive bid award was approved by the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. at their recent meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. Chief Justice Steele accompanied Superior Court Judge Joseph R. Slights, III.; Francis P. Jones, Esquire, Morris, James, Hitchens and Williams; and Franny M. Haney of the Administrative Office of the Courts to Charlotte to speak on behalf of the Delaware bid.

The Delaware Supreme Court established a host committee comprised of Judge Slights and Mr. Jones as co-chairs; Delaware Supreme Court Justice Carolyn Berger; Attorney General M. Jane Brady; Superior Court Judge Robert B. Young, Jr.; Franny M. Haney of the Administrative Office of the Courts; Cynthia Kane of the Secretary of State's office; Patricia Quann of the Delaware Law Related Education Center; David Blake; Geoff Langdon of Cover, Rossiter; Charles McDowell, Esquire of Potter, Anderson; Eileen F. Wilkinson of St. Mark's High School; Clay Davis, Esquire; and William Montgomery of Mayor Baker's office. The host committee was responsible for preparing the written bid package and will now undertake the planning and administering of the championship competition.

The 2008 National Mock High School Trial Championship will be held at the New Castle County Courthouse. It is expected to draw over 1,000 visitors to Wilmington during the 4 day competition. Events are being planned for the students and judges to highlight the area attractions. The Wyndham Hotel in Wilmington will serve as the headquarters' hotel for the visiting teams.

Chief Justice Steele, in his remarks to the National Board, indicated the tremendous enthusiasm that has been generated within the judiciary and the other branches of State government, the Delaware bar and the Delaware business community for hosting the championship. Chief Justice Steele stated the "hard, dedicated work of Mr. Jones and the leadership of Attorney General Brady and the Delaware Law Related Education Center put us in the position to bid for and win this honor". The Chief Justice has pledged to dedicate the full resources of the Delaware judiciary to ensure that the competition offers a memorable and rewarding experience for all participants and particularly for the student competitors.